

## May 11, 2005- Rahall, ARC Bring Business Technology Training to Wyoming County

### RAHALL, ARC BRING BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRAINING TO WYOMING COUNTY

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) announced a small business development initiative for southern West Virginia will roll out to Wyoming County in the coming weeks. The efforts of Congressman Rahall and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) will help small businesses in southern West Virginia obtain access to broadband technology and increase their profit by opening their doors to the global economy through the Internet.

"This new initiative, which I have worked hand-in-hand with ARC to develop, puts technology to work to put West Virginians to work," said Rahall. "I am proud to bring these new avenues in the world of e-commerce for our small businesses to Wyoming County. Using the business services available from the Internet means profit and job creation for Main Street West Virginia, we can not only better compete, but we will excel. The three "T's," transportation, technology and tourism, all can be well served with this initiative."

"This E-Commerce Initiative will help to bring the spirit of e-commerce to our Main Streets through providing hands-on, interactive classes designed to help grow small businesses through e-commerce," said Rahall. "I am committed to helping our small businesses in southern WV increase their bottom line, develop new sources of revenue, reduce the cost of supplies and services, better serve existing customers, and perhaps most importantly, enter new markets."

Rahall announced the new E-commerce initiative for southern West Virginia in March. After a successful first run of the initiative in Summers County during April, it will now be expanded to other counties across southern West Virginia. One of the many attendees in April, Jim Bowling, owner of the Summers County gift and novelties business Thimble and Plow, in Talcott, said, "I thought the class was very beneficial. I had no idea how to go about getting started in e-Commerce. It gave me a lot of insight about e-Commerce and computers in general."

Today Rahall announced that the initiative's classes will be offered at the Wyoming County WORKFORCE West Virginia Career Center at 213 Moran Avenue in Mullens. The class will take place on Tuesday, May 31 and Thursday, June 2 from 6-9:30 PM. To register for the class call WORKFORCE WV at 294-4105. The cost is \$25.

"We see E-commerce and the information superhighway as the keys to future prosperity for small businesses in our rural areas," said Jeff Lusk, Executive Director of the Wyoming County Economic Development Authority. "Congressman Rahall, ARC and all their partners are doing a great service to Wyoming County by bringing this initiative to our area."

"E-commerce education projects, such as this one, will be invaluable in helping to expand the sales opportunities and to improve the overall competitiveness of our state's small businesses," said Steve Roberts, President of the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce. "The ARC's new program will tie in perfectly with the long-term goals of the Chamber's new West Virginia Small Business Technology Education & Competitiveness Initiative. I commend Congressman Rahall for working with ARC to bring this new program to West Virginia."

Rahall said, "This initiative would not have been possible without the help that ARC and I were able to secure from Amazon.com, Microsoft, Mission West Virginia, Region 1 Workforce, Verizon, WVU Extension Service and, of course, the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce. Bringing all these groups to the table was the key to getting this initiative started and helping the small businesses of West Virginia succeed in the 21st Century."

This initiative will be rolled out to 11 counties in southern West Virginia by the end of 2005. "This is a small business builder for all of southern West Virginia. It will create new jobs in our area and help our local businesses reach the global marketplace. I encourage anyone with a small business to take advantage of this program," concluded Rahall.

Additional information follows:

#### Grow Your Business with e-Commerce

This hands-on, interactive class is designed to help small businesses begin taking advantage of the economic opportunities available through the worldwide Web.

E-Commerce is a lot more than just selling goods and services online.

E-Commerce uses online resources and tools to do business better:

- Better serve existing customers
- Enter new markets
- Reduce the cost of supplies and services
- Save time
- Develop new sources of revenue.

Topics covered over the four meetings include:

- What can a business like yours do with the Internet?
- Planning your business web site
- Promoting your business web site
- Creating your Internet business plan
- What do you need to get started and where can you get it?

Class days: Tuesday, May 31 and Thursday, June 2.

Time: 6-9:30 PM

Where: Wyoming County WORKFORCE West Virginia Career Center

213 Moran Avenue, Mullens, WV 25882

Cost: \$25 payable in advance or at first class meeting

Registration: WORKFORCE WV at 294-4105

Enrollment is targeted toward existing small businesses without a current Internet presence first; then, open to any small business or entrepreneur looking to establish an Internet business website.

Participants should have some basic computer experience accessing the Internet via dial-up or broadband service and using basic e-mail.

Additional benefits:

Participating businesses that complete all four sessions of the course will be eligible for:

- Small business e-grants to offset the start-up costs of moving to broadband service
- Microsoft software upgrades to facilitate the move into e-business activities
- On-going technical support
- Advanced e-commerce and online-selling training opportunities in coming months

This business development program is funded through the Appalachian Regional Commission's Information Age Appalachia Initiative designed to stimulate economic development and diversify local economies by providing the knowledge and technical support small businesses need to better serve customers, enter new markets, reduce costs and develop new sources of revenue through use of the Internet.

ARC's public and private partners for this program include Rep. Nick J. Rahall, II; Region 1 Workforce Investment Board; Mission West Virginia; WVU Extension Service; WV Chamber of Commerce; Verizon Foundation WV; Microsoft Corporation and Amazon.com.

## RAHALL, ARC BRING BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRAINING TO WYOMING COUNTY

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) announced a small business development initiative for southern West Virginia will roll out to Wyoming County in the coming weeks. The efforts of Congressman Rahall and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) will help small businesses in southern West Virginia obtain access to broadband technology and increase their profit by opening their doors to the global economy through the Internet.

"This new initiative, which I have worked hand-in-hand with ARC to develop, puts technology to work to put West Virginians to work," said Rahall. "I am proud to bring these new avenues in the world of e-commerce for our small businesses to Wyoming County. Using the business services available from the Internet means profit and job creation for Main Street West Virginia, we can not only better compete, but we will excel. The three "T's," transportation, technology and tourism, all can be well served with this initiative."

"This E-Commerce Initiative will help to bring the spirit of e-commerce to our Main Streets through providing hands-on, interactive classes designed to help grow small businesses through e-commerce," said Rahall. "I am committed to helping our small businesses in southern WV increase their bottom line, develop new sources of revenue, reduce the cost of supplies and services, better serve existing customers, and perhaps most importantly, enter new markets."

Rahall announced the new E-commerce initiative for southern West Virginia in March. After a successful first run of the initiative in Summers County during April, it will now be expanded to other counties across southern West Virginia. One of the many attendees in April, Jim Bowling, owner of the Summers County gift and novelties business Thimble and Plow, in Talcott, said, "I thought the class was very beneficial. I had no idea how to go about getting started in e-Commerce. It gave me a lot of insight about e-Commerce and computers in general."

Today Rahall announced that the initiative's classes will be offered at the Wyoming County WORKFORCE West Virginia Career Center at 213 Moran Avenue in Mullens. The class will take place on Tuesday, May 31 and Thursday, June 2 from 6-9:30 PM. To register for the class call WORKFORCE WV at 294-4105. The cost is \$25.

"We see E-commerce and the information superhighway as the keys to future prosperity for small businesses in our rural areas," said Jeff Lusk, Executive Director of the Wyoming County Economic Development Authority. "Congressman Rahall, ARC and all their partners are doing a great service to Wyoming County by bringing this initiative to our area."

"E-commerce education projects, such as this one, will be invaluable in helping to expand the sales opportunities and to improve the overall competitiveness of our state's small businesses," said Steve Roberts, President of the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce. "The ARC's new program will tie in perfectly with the long-term goals of the Chamber's new West Virginia Small Business Technology Education & Competitiveness Initiative. I commend Congressman Rahall for working with ARC to bring this new program to West Virginia."

Rahall said, "This initiative would not have been possible without the help that ARC and I were able to secure from Amazon.com, Microsoft, Mission West Virginia, Region 1 Workforce, Verizon, WVU Extension Service and, of course, the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce. Bringing all these groups to the table was the key to getting this initiative started and helping the small businesses of West Virginia succeed in the 21st Century."

This initiative will be rolled out to 11 counties in southern West Virginia by the end of 2005. "This is a small business builder for all of southern West Virginia. It will create new jobs in our area and help our local businesses reach the global marketplace. I encourage anyone with a small business to take advantage of this program," concluded Rahall.

Additional information follows:

#### Grow Your Business with e-Commerce

This hands-on, interactive class is designed to help small businesses begin taking advantage of the economic opportunities available through the worldwide Web.

E-Commerce is a lot more than just selling goods and services online.

E-Commerce uses online resources and tools to do business better:

- Better serve existing customers
- Enter new markets
- Reduce the cost of supplies and services
- Save time
- Develop new sources of revenue.

Topics covered over the four meetings include:

- What can a business like yours do with the Internet?
- Planning your business web site
- Promoting your business web site
- Creating your Internet business plan
- What do you need to get started and where can you get it?

Class days: Tuesday, May 31 and Thursday, June 2.

Time: 6-9:30 PM

Where: Wyoming County WORKFORCE West Virginia Career Center

213 Moran Avenue, Mullens, WV 25882

Cost: \$25 payable in advance or at first class meeting

Registration: WORKFORCE WV at 294-4105

Enrollment is targeted toward existing small businesses without a current Internet presence first; then, open to any small business or entrepreneur looking to establish an Internet business website.

Participants should have some basic computer experience accessing the Internet via dial-up or broadband service and using basic e-mail.

Additional benefits:

Participating businesses that complete all four sessions of the course will be eligible for:

- Small business e-grants to offset the start-up costs of moving to broadband service
- Microsoft software upgrades to facilitate the move into e-business activities
- On-going technical support
- Advanced e-commerce and online-selling training opportunities in coming months

This business development program is funded through the Appalachian Regional Commission's Information Age Appalachia Initiative designed to stimulate economic development and diversify local economies by providing the knowledge and technical support small businesses need to better serve customers, enter new markets, reduce costs and develop new sources of revenue through use of the Internet.

ARC's public and private partners for this program include Rep. Nick J. Rahall, II; Region 1 Workforce Investment Board; Mission West Virginia; WVU Extension Service; WV Chamber of Commerce; Verizon Foundation WV; Microsoft Corporation and Amazon.com.